

the life of a man: but to counterfet dying when a man thereby lieth, is to be no counterfet, but the true and perfect image of life indeed. The better part of valour is discretion, in the which better part I haue saued my life. Zounds I am afraid of this gunpowder Percy, though he be dead: how if he should cōterfet too and rise? by my faith, I am afraid hee would proue the better counterfet: therefore ile make him sure, yea and ile sweare I kild him. Why may not he rise as well as I: nothing confutes me but eyes, and no body sees me: therefore sirra, with a new wound in your thigh, come you along with me.

He takes up Hotspur on his backe. Enter Prince and

John of Lancaster

Prin. Come, brother John, full brauely hast thou flest thy mayden sword.

John. But soft, whom haue we heare? Did you not tell me, this fat man was dead?

Prin. I did, I saw him dead, Breathles and bleeding on the ground. Art thou aliue?

Or is it fantasie that playes vpon our eyesight? I prethee speake, we will not trust our eyes.

Without our eares, thou art not what thou seem'st.

Fal. No, that's certaine, I am not a double man: but if I be not Iacke Falstaffe, then am I a Iacke: there is Percie, if your father will doe me any honour, so: if not, let him kill the next Percie himselfe: I looke to be either Earle or Duke, I can assure you.

Prin. Why, Percie I kild my selfe, and saw thee dead.

Fal. Didst thou? Lord, Lord, how this world is giuen to lying. I graunt you, I was downe, and out of breath, and so was he, but weroe both at an instant, and fought a long houre by Shrewesburie clocke, if I may be beleeu'd for: if not, let them that should rewarde valour, beare the sinne vpon their owne heads. Ile take it vpon my death I gaue him this wound in the thigh: if the man were aliue, and would denie it, Zounds I would make him eate a peece of my sword.

John. This is the strangest tale, that euer I heard.

Prin. This is the strangest fellow, brother John. Come bring your luggage nobly on your backe.

For my part, if a lie may doe thee grace, Ile giue it with the happiest termes I haue.

A retreat is sounded.

Prin. The Trumpet sounds retreat, the day is ours. Come, brother, let vs to the highest of the field,

To see what friends are liuing, who are dead.

Fal. Ile follow, as they say, for reward. Hee that rewarde me, God rewarde him. If I doe growe great, ile growe lesse, for ile purge and leaue sacke, and liue cleanly as a noble man should do.

The Trumpets sound. Enter the King, Prince of Wales, Lord John of Lancaster, Earle of Westmerland, with Worcester, and Vernon prisoners.

King. Thus euer did rebellion find rebuke.

Illspirited Worcester, did not we send grace, pardon, and termes of loue to all of you?

And wouldst thou turne out offers contrary, Misuse the tenor of thy kinsmans trust?

Three knights vpon our partie slaine to day, A noble Earle and many a creature else,

Had bene aliue this houre, If like a Christian thou hadst truly borne Betwixt our armies true intelligence.

Wor. What I haue done, my safety vrg'd mee to: And I embrace this fortune patiently, Since not to be auoyded it falls on me.

King. Beare Worcester to the death, and Vernon too: Other offenders we will pause vpon.

How goes the field?

Prin. The noble Scot, Lord Douglas, when he saw The fortune of the day quite turn'd from him,

The noble Percie slaine, and all his men Vpon the foote of feare, fled with the rest:

And falling from a hill, he was so brus'd, That the pursuers tooke him. At my tent The Douglas is: and I beseech your grace

I may dispose of him.